



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

**Juvenile Reentry Task Force
Minutes of Regular Meeting**
Lucas State Office Bldg., Room 201
321 East 12th Street,
Des Moines, IA 50319

May 20, 2015

Present: Ralph Allbee; Ruth Buckels; Amy Carpenter; Jim Chesnik; DeAnn Decker; Ashton Hampton; Karen Jones; Kristi Judkins; Jessica Kropf; Brett Lawrence; Charlie Levine; Steve Miller; Gary Niles; Lettie Prell; Harrison Ulrich; Susan Walkup; Ross Wilburn

Facilitators: Jim Swaim; Joan VandenBerg

Staff: Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Nate Connealy; Julie Rinker; Laura Roeder-Grubb

- **Call to Order, Welcome/Introductions**

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made at this time.

- **Minutes of the April 16th Meeting (Vote)**

Susan Walkup moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting, seconded by Steve Miller. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **Overview of Day**

Jim Swaim, Facilitator, reported that the action plan is due prior to the grant deadline of June 23. Therefore, the focus of the meeting is to review and approve the priorities in the action plan. The final grant application will be reviewed for approval at the June 11th meeting. The goal is to refine practices so that resources and supports are in place for young people to succeed at all phases of placement. Results will be evaluated based on recidivism data.

- **Follow-up Meeting Reports**
 - **National Consultant Visit**

Dave Kuker reviewed the site visit report completed by the national consultants, Dr. Shay Bilchik and Elizabeth Seigle with the Council of State Governments Justice Center. The report was included in the meeting packet and summarized consultant recommendations to Iowa's juvenile reentry planning.

- **Iowa Participation May 11, 2015 Reentry Entry Summit**

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Michael reviewed the Reentry Summit that both he and Swaim attended. Other sites are having similar issues as Iowa. However, some sites have up to 100 different judicial districts operating independently, making standardization much more cumbersome. Attendees learned more about the requirements of the RFP. Both Swaim and Michael noted that Iowa has a good opportunity to be awarded the implementation grant in comparison to other sites. They were pleased with the number of youth contributing to reentry plan discussions.

- **Education/Voc. Rehab/IWD Discussion at STS**

Joan Vandenberg reviewed a meeting held at the Boys State Training School (STS). Attendees included representatives from Iowa Workforce Development, Vocational Rehab, AEA, and youth who reside at the school. Concerns included college readiness, job skills, and technology. She noted policy changes within Iowa Workforce Development and Vocational Rehab.

- **Overview Implementation RFP - Group Feedback Regarding Draft Outline (Vote) – Nate Connealy, Dave Kuker, and Laura Roeder-Grubb**

Nate Connealy reviewed an outline of reentry grant components—recommendations, scope of work/target population, objectives, program narrative/sustainability plan, and budget. The outline was included in the meeting packet.

Discussion focused on ways in which JCO's can 'suspend' Medicaid benefits when youth enter detention or the STS, and the need for uniform, statewide practices. Other concerns were making sure that benefits are in place when youth exit the system as an adult. Templates and reminders for JCO's were recommended.

Other concerns were developing standards for kids similar to an Oakdale classification center for adults; and developing a statewide 'portal' to determine where beds are available for appropriate placement. DeAnn Decker noted ways to identify gaps in services.

Amy Carpenter moved to approve the outline, seconded by Ralph Allbee. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Finish Action Planning Discussions - Swaim – Vandenberg**
- **Work in Small Groups - Each Focus Area - Swaim - Vandenberg:**
 - **Mental Health/Substance Abuse & Evidence-Based Practice**
 - **Assessment**
 - **Education**
- **Coordinate/Finalize Action Plan/Time Tables (Vote) - Swaim – Vandenberg**

As part of Exercise 4, "Developing an Implementation and Sustainability Plan", members were asked to review an already prepared action plan that was included in the meeting handouts.

Based upon their area of expertise, members broke into small groups to review and prioritize tasks, timelines, and responsible party(ies), resources, and required changes to policy or practice.

Upon returning from the small group session, members reviewed enhancements to the action plan. Minor changes will be incorporated and presented for final review and approval at the June 11th meeting. A final product must be submitted to the National Reentry Resource Center by June 30.

Ralph Allbee moved to adopt the action plan as amended, seconded by Ruth Buckels. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Next Steps - Swaim – VandenBerg - Michael:**
 - **2015 Iowa Legislative Action**
 - **Next Mtg. - June 11, 2015, Lucas Bldg., Room 201, Des Moines, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Swaim reported that the focus of the June meeting will be to adopt a final product. Materials will be sent via email prior to the meeting. Other considerations will be any legislative impact and the status of the pending lawsuit regarding the closure of the Girls State Training School in Toledo.

Once submitted, the group will exist as a planning task force through September. Members were asked to give consideration to serving on the implementation task force if Iowa is awarded a grant. The matter will be further discussed at the June meeting.

- **Closing/Reflection on Day - Swaim - VandenBerg**

Swaim closed the meeting with several review questions:

When thinking about where we are today, what is the most exciting thing about the work – personally: Medicine, law, making changes for Iowa youth, work is looking more official,

Disappointments?: None

Anything that's scary?: Tasks, funding, but a grant award will help accomplish the plan

Challenges?: Going statewide, monitoring tasks listed

What impact will you see in the first few months?: Getting more of a team approach to transition kids, moving away from silos, interdisciplinary filtering down to work with kids

What steps are you going to take between now and June 11 meeting?: Talk to superintendent about suggestion about assessment tool, moving Polk County transition to statewide, will inform board at Insight at their meeting tomorrow, talk to other kids to see if there is anything else that could be done, have already been taking information to AMP youth regarding workforce site; inform supervisors; make sure DHS is aware of the work of the group, ask state for letter of support, meet with administrators to make sure they and other supervisors are aware of this effort.

Swaim thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning